

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 ORM-02 DHA-02 /079 W

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R 191155Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7653

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: PROTEST AGAINST GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS

REF: 75 JERUSALEM 1857

1. SUMMARY. GROUP ORGANIZED BY ISRAELI LEFTISH PARTY MOKED DEMONSTRATED IN WEST BANK OVER JAN 17-18 WEEKEND AGAINST HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS BEING PROVIDED FOR GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS WHO WERE MOVED TO MILITARY CAMP AFTER TRYING TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA LAST DECEMBER. CONTINUE PRESENCE OF SETTLERS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF REPEATED PROTESTS TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES BY NABLUS AND OTHER WEST BANK MAYORS DURING PAST FEW WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS, ABOUT 150 MOKED-ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATORS ASSEMBLED JAN 17 OUTSIDE MILITARY CAMP NEAR NABLUS (CAMP KADDUM) WHERE GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS WHO ARE SEEKING GOI SANCTION FOR NEW SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA ARE NOW STAYING. (REFTEL) ISRAELI MILITARY ROADBLOCKS STOPPED THEIR VEHICLES SOME DISTANCE FROM CAMP, FORCING THEM TO PROCEED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOOT. DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY CARRIED PLACARDS STATING "SETTLE-

MENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES UNDERMINES PEACE PROSPECTS."
SMALL GROUP REMAINED OVERNIGHT AND WERE JOINED BY ABOUT 250 FOR
SECOND RALLY NEXT DAY. SPOKESMAN SAID GROUP TRYING TO CALL
ATTENTION TO DANGER THAT KADDUM GROUP WILL BECOME PERMANENT
SETTLEMENT.

3. DURING PAST FEW WEEKS AREA ADJACENT TO CAMP KADDUM HAS BEEN
PREPARED FOR HOUSING WOULD-BE SETTLERS THAT HAVE BEEN PERMITTED
TO REMAIN "TEMPORARILY" INSIDE CAMP. TWO PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS
THAT SETTLERS HAD ERECTED AT ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT SITE ARE
APPARENTLY TO BE SET UP THERE, AND NUMBER OF HOUSE TRAILERS
ARE ALSO ON SITE. CAMP FENCE HAS NOW REPORTEDLY BEEN MOVED TO
ENCLOSE NEW AREA, ALTHOUGH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE SAID TO
CLAIM LAND WAS ALREADY UNDER GOI CONTROL (I.E. "PUBLIC" LAND
OR PURCHASED) AND NO NEW LAND TAKEN FOR PURPOSE. ALLEGEDLY
ACTION TO MOVE SETTLERS MOTIVATED BY LACK OF SPACE AND ADEQUATE
FACILITIES INSIDE ORIGINAL CAMP AREA. REPORTS DIFFER ON
OWNERSHIP OF TRAILERS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR WORK BEING DONE
TO HOUSE SETTLERS. WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION HAS DENIED REPORT
THAT I PROVIDED TRAILERS AND PRESS REPORTS NOW THAT GUSH
EMUNIM MAY HAVE PURCHASED THEM.

4. ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND CAMP KADDUM TO IMPROVE HOUSING
FOR SETTLER HAS AROUSED REPEATED PROTESTS TO MILITARY
GOVERNOR AND DEFENSE MINISTER FROM MAYORS OF NABLUS AND OTHER
NORTHERN WEST BANK TOWNS DURING RECENT WEEKS. WEST BANKERS
FEAR THAT PROVISION OF FACILITIES AT CAMP ESPECIALLY
FOR SETTLERS WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT,
IN SAME MANNER THAT KIRYAT ARBA NEAR HEBRON DEVELOPED.

5. WEST BANKERS' PROTESTS HAVE ALSO BEEN DIRECTED TO "PERMANENT
WORK CAMP" OF OFRA, NORTHEAST OF RAMALLAH, THAT HAS BEEN SANCTIONED
BY DEFENSE MINISTRY. ALTHOUGH GOI HAS NOT FORMALLY AGREED TO
ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENT THERE, WORK CAMP CONSTITUTES DE FACTO
SETTLEMENT IN EYES OF MOST OBSERVERS. JERUSALEM POST REPORTED
ON EXCHANGE ON SUBJECT JAN 13 BETWEEN RAMALLAH MAYOR KARIM
KHALAF AND VISITING DEFENSE MINISTER PERES. ACCORDING TO POST,
KHALAF DEMANDED ISRAELI BAN ON JEWISH SETTLEMENT AT OFRA AND ELSE-
WHERE ON WEST BANK. WHEN PERES ALLEGEDLY RESPONDED THAT JEWS
HAD RIGHT TO LIVE NEAR RAMALLAH AND HE SAW NO REASON TO PREVENT
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JEWS AND ARABS LIVING SIDE BY SIDE WITH AIM OF PROMOTING PEACE,
KHALAF REPORTEDLY ASKED IF THIS HELD TRUE ONLY FOR JEWS AND NOT
FOR ARABS WHO WISHED TO RETURN TO RAMLA AND JAFFA. PERES
AGUED THAT NO ONE HAD FORCED ARABS TO LEAVE RAMLA OR ANY
OTHER PLACE.

6. COMMENT. CONTINUED ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES AND GOI
WILLINGNESS, IN EYES OF WEST BANKERS, TO PERMIT DE FACTO SETTLE-

MENTS TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT GOVERNMENT DECISION, SUCH AS
AT OFRA AND CAMP KADDUM, REMAIN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOUNDS OF
COMPLAINT BY WEST BANKERS AGAINST ISRAELIS. MOST WEST BANKERS
SEE ISRAELI POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT AS EVIDENCE OF ISRAELI
LACK OF SINCERITY IN PROCLAIMING DESIRE FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT.
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